DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 466 509 UD 035 108

AUTHOR	Hill, Paul T., Ed.
TITLE	Choice with Equity: An Assessment by the Koret Task Force on K-12 Education. Hoover Institution Press Publication.
INSTITUTION	Stanford Univ., CA. Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace.
SPONS AGENCY	Koret Foundation, San Francisco, CA.; Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Milwaukee, WI.; Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA.
REPORT NO	No-513
ISBN	ISBN-0-8179-3892-3
PUB DATE	2002-00-00
NOTE	222p.; With a foreword by John Raisian.
AVAILABLE FROM	Hoover Institution Press, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-6010 ($15). Tel: 877-466-8374 (Toll Free); Web site: http://www.hoover.org.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Collected Works - General (020)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Achievement; *Disadvantaged Youth; Educational Vouchers; Elementary Secondary Education; High Risk Students; Low Income Groups; Minority Group Children; Peer Influence; Private Schools; Program Evaluation; Public Schools; *School Choice; Urban Schools
IDENTIFIERS	Edison Project

ABSTRACT

This collection of papers reviews the national debate over school choice, examining the benefits for parents, children, and schools and showing how properly designed choice programs can prevent the harmful outcomes choice opponents fear. The papers discuss why choice must be addressed in the context of the real-world performance of public schools, review the facts on segregation by race and social class in actual voucher programs, and examine the claim that schools and families are harmed when left behind by those who take advantage of new options. The seven chapters are: (1) "Introduction" (Paul T. Hill); (2) "Baselines for Assessment of Choice Programs" (Paul T. Hill and Kacey Guin); (3) "Who Chooses? Who Uses? Participation in a National School Voucher Program" (Paul E. Peterson, David E. Campbell, Martin R. West); (4) "A Supply-Side View of Student Selectivity" (John E. Chubb); (5) "Will Quality of Peers Doom Those Left in the Public Schools?" (Eric A. Hanushek); (6) "How School Choice Affects the Achievement of Public School Students" (Caroline M. Hoxby); and (7) "The Structure of School Choice" (Terry M. Moe). (SM)

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